

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 25, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

February 27

iLearn Parent Night 7-8 p.m. at Holmes

March 3-7

ISAT Testing

March 18

Science Fair

March 31-April 11

CogAT

April 21-May 2

IAAT (algebra placement test)

April 25

Rockin Lock In

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change)

Brooks Course Selection Deadline Extended to February 24 (that's today!)

The deadline for selecting your child's Arts and World Language course has been extended to February 24. Course selection can be done through the powerschool parent portal. Contact Michael Michowski at Brooks Middle School if you have questions.

iLearn Parent/Guardian Information Night

An iLearn Parent Information Night to be held at Holmes on Thursday (February 27) from 7:00 - 8:30. Suzie Hackmiller and Elizabeth Conway (our data and technology coach) will give a presentation about the new iPads, and some of our 5th graders will be on hand to show how we are using the iPads in class. If you can't make this Thursday's session, similar presentations will be held at the other elementary schools over the next two weeks.

STEM Week

STEM Week (brought to you by PTO) will be the week of March 17. STEM Week @ Holmes is a series of programs celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The Fifth Grade Science Fair will be held on Tuesday of STEM Week (March 18).

PTO is looking for people in STEM fields to share their experiences with students during STEM Week. If you work in a STEM field, have an interest or hobby in a STEM area, or know someone in the STEM field who might be interested in doing a classroom presentation, please contact PTO's STEM Week Volunteer Coordinator - Alexandra Blomgren at stemweek1@gmail.com. See the flyer posted on the Digital Backpack for more information.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders have finished creating their petroglyph clay slab boxes. We carved symbols into the clay, fired the clay and then painted them. These will be going home this week. We are beginning a unit on advertising where students will be creating ads for local businesses. We are learning about the parts of an ad and what makes an ad effective. We will be participating in the Wednesday Journal's "Design an Ad" contest.

Music - All the classes did a folk dance last week in Sicilian Square formation. They had one partner they kept for the whole dance and two "opposites" that kept changes through each repetition of the piece. Our goal for the whole activity was not perfection in movement, but that everyone felt respected by their partners and opposites during the progress. The fifth graders did a wonderful job in this aspect and I look forward to doing more movement activities during ISATs!

Chorus - We had a wonderful assembly performance with the band, orchestra, and gold belt ensembles recentl and are currently working on our songs for the District Festival. Permission slips will be distributed digitally soon.

Spanish - Students have been working with the story "Carlos y los Tres Monstruos." In their groups, they made changes to the story and acted it for the class. The story is posted on the blog and students are able to read the story to someone for 10 extra puntos. We will be having assessment on the story this week. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - This past week we used our skills with precise keywords to answer some questions about dogs. The point wasn't to get the answer, rather to understand the importance of precision searching using a search engine. READING OLYMPIANS: We will be meeting **this Wednesday, February 26** during recess, from 12:15-12:45. This meeting is **mandatory** to check in on our progress. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

This week we will revisit and continue our exploration of figurative language. We will be working to identify a simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, and onomatopoeia. Students will have a workbook that will include most of their homework this week. Also, to get them ready for ISATs next week, much of the homework will be reading short passages and giving responses.

This is the second week of our 5th-grade **Literature Circle**. Students are responsible for reading a portion of their book and completing the role task sheets each week. The first page of their Literature Circle workbook says what pages they should be reading and which role they have this week. The roles rotate each week so every student will have the opportunity to be the scene setter, super summarizer, character sketcher, and conflict connector. Please check-in with your student and ask if he/she is ready for their Friday book discussion!

Writing

In writing students will begin to write their Battles of the American Revolution research paper. We also will be doing a mini-lesson focusing on transitions words and compound sentences.

Math

Today, we reviewed multiplication and division of fractions. Tomorrow, students will use what they have learned to complete a culminating task involving cookie recipes. The task will be used as an assessment for this unit. We will spend the remainder of the week reviewing for next week's ISAT. Students will take a practice multiple choice test, and work on extended response problems as well. We will also review the fraction functions of the TI-15 calculator. Calculators are still available for purchase. The cost is \$16, payable in cash or check made out to District 97.

Science

In Science this week, we will finish our study of volume and will review our variables unit. Students will take a variables unit test on Friday. The Science Fair will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2014. We will work with students on planning sheets, but experiments must be conducted at home. The science section of the wiki will be updated with information throughout the process.

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Social Studies

In Social Studies we will continue to research specific battles of the American Revolution. Students will also begin to write their research papers, using the information that they found. We will incorporate writing mini-lessons throughout the week, including lessons on editing and revising.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will be receiving words this week, and the Spelling Test will be on Friday. Also, students should complete three spelling activities for homework. This is also due Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>